

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: Paul F. Marion

WORLD PREMIERE OPERA AT UNIVERSITY OF LOWELL

LOWELL, MASS. - A world premiere opera, "The Station," by Czechoslovakian composer Vaclav Nelhybel will be staged at the University of Lowell, May 18 and 19, at 8:00 P.M. in Durgin Hall, located at Pawtucket and Wilder Streets, Lowell.

Nelhybel, a composer in residence last year at the University of Lowell College of Music, wrote "The Station" five years ago, however the one hour opera has never been performed. A morality theme, it takes place in a train station somewhere in the United States in the late 19th century. Five persons, waiting for a train to a "Promised Land," must obey strict rules if they hope to get aboard, and this sets up the tension in the piece.

Composer Nelhybel, a master of counterpoint technique, creates a unique musical effect by mixing singing voices and taped thoughts of characters with traditional instruments on stage and electrified music off-stage.

The program begins with a staged reading of the script by students from the College of Music. Following a brief intermission is the fully staged opera with professional cast. Appearing in the production are Dr. Rawn Spearman of the College of Music, graduate student Pamela Farley, mezzo Elaine Sciog, tenor Keith Kibler, and Lynn Fleck. Conducting the opera is Willis Traphagan of the College of Music, and the director is Mark Kaufman of the Merrimack Regional Theatre.

Admission is \$5.00 for the general public and \$2.00 for students. For information contact the University of Lowell College of Music at 452-5000, extension 2250.

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